MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1. THE EASTERN LIMIT OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE HANUMAN LANGUR *SEMNOPITHECUS ENTELLUS* DUFRESNE[1]

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The Hanuman or Common Langur *Semnopithecus entellus* Dufresne is among the commonest primates of the Indian subcontinent and is the most abundant of the colobines, i.e. langurs. Its general distribution covers almost the entire India, excluding the deserts and the snow-capped higher Himalaya. It is a very well documented species; however, towards the eastern part of its range, its distribution was imperfectly known. In Bangladesh, the only population is in western Bangladesh, in Kushtia and Jessore districts (Khan 1985), which suggested that the Padma and Meghna rivers formed its eastern limit in that country. In Bhutan, it occurs only towards south-west (Choudhury 1990, 1997; Wangchuk 1995).

So far no specimen has been recorded from anywhere in north-east India except northern West Bengal and Sikkim. A large number of reports were received from different parts of north-east India, e.g. Arunachal Pradesh (Chatterjee 1989; Kaul 1999), Assam (Choudhury 1989) and Mizoram (Khati 1995). However, all these were misidentification of the Capped Langur *Trachypithecus* (=*Presbytis*) *pileatus*, which is common in the region. Tikader (1983), however, tried to limit its eastern boundary, which was nearer to the actual. He mentioned River Teesta in northern West Bengal as its easternmost limit. Roonwal and Mohnot (1977) mentioned of a subspecies in northern Myanmar (*P.e. shanicus*) creating further confusion regarding the species' eastern limit because it suggested occurrence in north-east India also! However, it is clear that no such race occurs in northern Myanmar and *shanicus* is no longer considered a form of *entellus* (Brandon-Jones *et al.* 2002; Corbet and Hill 1992; Groves 1993, 2001). There were also reports from south-eastern areas of Tibet, China (Qiu and Bleisch 1996).

All such reports of Hanuman Langurs from different parts of north-east India and adjacent areas of south-eastern Tibet appeared to be misidentification of the Capped Langur, which has seasonal change in pelage colour and some races look entirely grey. There were more erroneous records, Anon. (1997) reported of its occurrence in Tibet, east of the Tsangpo river, while Das *et al.* (1995) included East Garo Hills, Meghalaya as part of its range. But none could refer to any specimens.

Corbet and Hill (1992) erroneously included the entire north-east India in the range map for Hanuman Langur (p. 175), while Prater (1948) did not mention anything specifically on north-east India or Assam. Qiu and Bleisch's (1996) report that it occurs in Yarlung Zangbu region of Tibet had again raised confusion as they had mentioned of specimens also. But on being asked to clarify (Choudhury 1997), they could not defend their report and said that the specimens were not seen or examined but 'reported' (Bleisch 1997; Qiu 1997). George Schaller during his visit to Guwahati in February 2000 had a discussion with me regarding the langur species found in south-eastern Tibet near India's border and the adjacent areas in Arunachal Pradesh. Subsequently, he confirmed that the langurs found near the Tsangpo belt were Capped and not Hanuman as stated in Choudhury (1997).

During field studies for primates in north-east India since 1984, I could not confirm the presence of Hanuman Langur and all the reports were found out to be of Capped Langurs, some of which, especially in parts of higher Himalaya and Naga Hills look entirely grey. In northern West Bengal, I found it to occur east of the Teesta river, thus contradicting Tikader (1983). It is, however, very rare and occurs mainly in Chunabhati and Buxa fort area of Buxa Tiger Reserve, west of the Rydak river. In Bhutan, Wangchuk (1995) reported that the Hanuman Langur occurs as far east as the Puna Tsang Chu or Sankosh river. Thus, it is now established that the eastern limit of Hanuman Langur's distribution is the Rydak river in northern West Bengal, India; Sankosh or Puna Tsang Chu in Bhutan, and Padma and Meghna rivers in Bangladesh (historically Jamuna also).

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2. MACAQUES 'KIDNAP' INFANT PALM CIVETS[1]

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During a study of Civet ecology in Hlawga Wildlife Park (2000-2003), I observed two instances of 'adoption' or 'kidnapping' of baby Palm Civets. Hlawga Wildlife Park in Myanmar is a 6.24 sq. km protected area, dominated by secondary mixed deciduous forest, located 35 km north of Yangon. The Park has a mixed fauna of large mammals, such as Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*), Red Muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Eld's Deer (*Cervus eldi*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) and Gaur (*Bos frontalis*), some introduced from other areas in Myanmar (Su Su 2003). It has a current population of *c.* 280 Rhesus Macaques (*Macaca mulatta*). The Park is frequently visited by local tourists who feed Sambar, Hog Deer, Eld's Deer and Macaques with food bought from local vendors.

On April 22, 2001, my assistant and I were approached by a group of macaques seeking food. One adult male carried a small black animal that was crying like a kitten. We soon identified it as an infant Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*). The Palm Civet is the most common small carnivore in the Park. We used food to coax the monkey to surrender the baby Civet, but the macaque held on to it firmly. When we tried chasing, it ran away and climbed on a tree, still holding the baby. The Park's forestry staff reported that they had seen the macaque with the baby Civet for three days. We observed the macaque with the live baby Civet daily for the next three days, the baby's voice becoming weaker each day. Two days later, the Civet was dead but was still being carried by the macaque.

A week after this event, we saw another male macaque, a smaller male, carrying another baby Palm Civet. This infant Civet was alive but was not vocalizing. Unfortunately, we were unable to observe this macaque on subsequent days. It seems probable that these macaques appropriate baby Palm Civets that they encounter in civet nestling sites, in trees. Macaques are known to show paternal behaviour towards infants of their own species (Schino *et al.* 1995), but we have not heard of allo-mothering behaviour in this species.

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